

offices during good behaviour, but not beyond the age of seventy years.

5. Justices of the peace and notaries public shall hold their offices during seven years, if they so long behave themselves well, at the expiration of which term, they may be re-appointed, or others appointed as the public interest may require.

6. The justices of the supreme judicial court shall hold no office under the United States, nor any state, nor any other office under this state, except that of justice of the peace.

ARTICLE 7.

Military.

§ 1. The captains and subalterns of the militia shall be elected by the written votes of the members of their respective companies. The field officers of regiments by the written votes of the captains and subalterns of their respective regiments. The brigadier-generals, in like manner, by the field officers of their respective brigades.

2. The legislature shall, by law, direct the manner of notifying the electors, conducting the elections, and making the returns to the governor of the officers elected; and if the electors shall neglect or refuse to make such elections, after being duly notified according to law, the governor shall appoint suitable persons to fill such offices.

3. The major-general shall be elected by the senate and house of representatives, each having a negative on the other. The adjutant-general and quartermaster-general shall be appointed by the governor and council; but the adjutant-general shall perform the duties of quartermaster-general, until otherwise directed by law. The major-generals and brigadier-generals, and the commanding officers of regiments and battalions, shall appoint their respective staff officers; and all military officers shall be commissioned by the governor.

4. The militia, as divided into divisions, brigades, regiments, battalions, and companies, pursuant to the laws now in force, shall remain so organized, until the same shall be altered by the legislature.

5. Persons of the denomination of quakers and shakers, justices of the supreme judicial court, and ministers of the gospel, may be exempted from military duty; but no other person, of the age of eighteen and under the age of forty-five years, excepting officers of the militia who have been honourably discharged, shall be so exempted, unless he shall pay an equivalent, to be fixed by law.

ARTICLE 8.

Literature.

A general diffusion of the advantages of education being essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people; to promote this important object, the legislature are authorized, and it shall be their duty, to require the several towns to make suitable provision, at their own expense, for the support and maintenance of public schools; and it shall further be their duty to encourage and suitably endow, from time to time, as the circumstances of the people may authorize, all academies, colleges, and seminaries of learning, within the state: pro-